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Staying very cold with widespread ice

3 December 2010

The Met Office is warning that widespread ice is likely across many parts of the UK through the weekend, resulting in dangerous conditions on roads and pavements.

During Friday and Saturday, a wintry mix of rain and sleet is expected to cross the country from the west, with the chance of further snow for a time almost anywhere. This rain, sleet or snow is likely to fall on to frozen surfaces causing widespread ice to form, especially in Northern Ireland, Wales, and many parts of central and southern Britain. The risk of widespread ice persists throughout the weekend and into the coming week.

Met Office Chief Forecaster, Steve Willington said: “The UK is experiencing some exceptionally cold conditions at the moment, breaking local minimum temperatures records across the country last night. The mix of freezing temperatures, rain and sleet brings a significant risk of ice on roads and pavements leading to dangerous conditions out and about.”

The Met Office works closely with others to help alert vulnerable people to the risks of the cold. Director at Age UK, Michelle Mitchell said: "Older people are much more susceptible to injury if they fall, and in icy weather it’s important to be really careful and assess whether you really need to make a journey. We'd also encourage people to check on their older neighbours."

Met Office forecasts further snow and ice (YouTube)

Transcript for the video *Met Office forecasts further snow and ice* (PDF, 64 kB)

The latest weather forecasts and warnings

More about snow and how to report your snow observations

You might also be interested in…

- Health services
- Transport services

Related Internet links

- Advice on staying warm and well in cold weather (Directgov)

The Met Office is not responsible for the content of external Internet sites.

Notes to Editors

Table of locations where overnight temperatures broke local records last night:

Overnight Records 2/3 December		Previous record	
Temperature	Location	Temperature	Date
-17.9 °C	LEEMING	-15.0 °C	07/01/1970
-17.3 °C	LINTON ON OUSE	-14.2 °C	14/02/1991
-17.5 °C	CHURCH FENTON	-15.2 °C	14/02/1991
-10.4 °C	INVERBERVIE NO.2	-8.1 °C	29/12/1995
-12.8 °C	SPADEADAM	-12.7 °C	04/03/2001
-12.6 °C	DISHFORTH AIRFIELD	-10.0 °C	21/12/1963
-11.7 °C	YEOVILTON	-10.0 °C	29/12/1964
-7.8 °C	SHOEBURYNESS	-5.8 °C	15/12/1991
-6.0 °C	ST BEES HEAD NO.2	-5.8 °C	28/12/1995
-7.5 °C	HERSTMONCEUX	-5.3 °C	31/12/1996
-9.1 °C	KENLEY AIRFIELD	-6.5 °C	20/12/1999
-5.2 °C	LANGDON BAY	-4.5 °C	20/12/1999
-6.0 °C	SOLENT	-5.0 °C	20/12/1999
-14.7 °C	SHAP	-11.4 °C	31/12/2003
-5.3 °C	CARDINHAM, BODMIN	-4.5 °C	28/12/2005

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